



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

December 2014

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



In 1994, a group of volunteers committed to the students of the School City of Mishawaka, established the School City of Mishawaka Education Foundation (MEF), the first education foundation established in our area. These founders recognized that public funding could not always provide for the kind of academic enrichment that encourages high achievement and excellence. To meet this need, the Mishawaka Education Foundation was formed. The Mission of the School City of Mishawaka Education Foundation, Inc. is to form community partnerships that enhance the overall educational environment for all School City of Mishawaka students by funding creative initiatives and unique educational opportunities outside the normal fund process. They support creating enthusiastic learners and great learning environments. The Directors of the MEF firmly believe, and I concur, that today's students are tomorrow's leaders and the quality of our future depends on the excellence of today's educational experiences. MEF is committed to diversity, opportunity, accountability, and creativity.

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the Mishawaka Education Foundation has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to School City of Mishawaka teachers and students. The simple idea of enhancing the educational environment through innovative programming has results that are far-reaching. While public school funding has limitations, the passion that MEF supporters have for education and its potential to reach students is unlimited. In addition to funding for teachers and students, the MEF also introduced many successful initiatives such as **Beyond the Cave, Made in Mishawaka** and the **MEF 365 CLUB**. They have also given thousands of books to Mishawaka children at the City's annual Summerfest. These programs have all been successful but their newest initiative, **THE MISHAWAKA PROMISE**, is their most ambitious program and promises to be its most successful. The purpose of the new initiative is to raise AWARENESS and FUNDING for Mishawaka public schools. The campaign goal over five years is to raise \$2.5 million to use for classroom initiatives that will make School City of Mishawaka unique.

The MEF has stepped up fundraising over the past couple years under the leadership of their Executive Director, Jane Wright. On Thursday, September 25, 2014, the Mishawaka Education

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Joy of Cooking With Kids During the Holidays

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

The holidays are the perfect time to teach children about cooking and nutrition. Kids will not only get to try new foods, but they also will get a boost to their confidence when they see family and friends enjoying their creations. Most important, cooking with children promotes future health by teaching them about nutrition and how to prepare healthy meals safely. To be safe, cover a few ground rules before getting started in the kitchen.

Safety Precautions

Teach kids to wash their hands with warm, soapy water (before, during and after handling food). Sing two choruses of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to give hand-washing time to kill germs. Remind them that it is never safe to eat mixtures containing raw eggs — even cookie dough.

Teaching the Basics

To begin, teach your child the basics such as cracking an egg or gathering the ingredients for a favorite holiday recipe. Convey the importance of measuring the correct amount of each ingredient and the different types of utensils needed.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

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| Dec 5 | Santa's Arrival,
Tree Lighting
Ceremony
(Downtown - 6pm) |
| Dec 6 | WinterFest
(Merrifield Park - 5pm-8pm) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Free Ice Skating
(weather permitting) ◇ Refreshments ◇ Live Nativity Scene ◇ Ice Sculptor ◇ Petting Zoo ◇ Bonfire ◇ Outdoor Movie -
"The Grinch" ◇ Santa (at Castle Manor) ◇ Sleigh Rides
(weather permitting) |
| Dec 24-25 | Christmas Holiday
(City Offices Closed) |
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day
Holiday
(City Offices Closed) |
| Jan 11 | ND Fighting Irish
Hockey Team
"Practice on the
Pond"
(Merrifield Ice Rink) |

ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at
<http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at
<http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

Foundation held their 2nd annual "Growing the Future" Dinner, where they honored David and Kathleen Sparks, the owners of many local McDonalds restaurants, with the "2014 Growing the Future Award" for making such a difference in our Mishawaka community. David also served as the first President of the MEF Board of Directors.

At the dinner, I announced that the City of Mishawaka would become a partner with the MEF on **The Mishawaka Promise**. I pledged \$50,000 as a dollar-for-dollar match of any contribution up to \$50,000 and challenged the guests at the dinner, including many business and community leaders to contribute to the worthy program. Spence Walton, grandson of former Mishawaka Mayor E. Spencer Walton, answered the challenge as his law firm, May Oberfell Lorber, also made a similar significant commitment. It is important to note that the funds I committed did not come from our taxpayer funded budget. These were gifted funds from the University of Notre Dame which made their commitment to local education even more relevant. I committed these funds in part because of the well-publicized financial challenges facing School City and because I have great confidence in the MEF who will direct these dollars straight into the classroom to the benefit of Mishawaka students and teachers.

The \$50,000 number is not arbitrary. I thought that it was fitting that this is also roughly the population of the City of Mishawaka (48,262 to be exact). I would encourage every prominent Mishawaka business that is capable to provide an equal match. I would also encourage those living in or participating in School City to donate toward the Mishawaka Promise. This will quickly turn the original commitment to the Mishawaka Education Foundation into \$150,000! This will be a great start for the Mishawaka Education Foundation's **Mishawaka Promise**. More importantly, it would make a big difference in the education of our future leaders.

Mayor Dave Wood



The Joy of Cooking With Kids During the Holidays *(continued)*

Look Who's Cooking

To keep your children enthusiastic about cooking, assign tasks of a holiday recipe they are able to prepare based on their abilities. Here are some ideas depending on your child's age:

- **5 & 6 years old** - Stir instant pudding, snap green beans, prepare lettuce for a salad, press cookie cutters, pour liquids into batter.
- **7 & 8 years old** - Rinse vegetables, shuck corn, mix and shake ingredients, beat eggs, measure dry ingredients.
- **9 & 10 years old** - Knead bread dough, stir hot mixtures, blend batters, broil foods in toaster oven, cut foods with a table knife.
- **11 years & older** - Slice or chop vegetables, boil potatoes, microwave foods, bake foods in the oven, simmer ingredients on the stove.

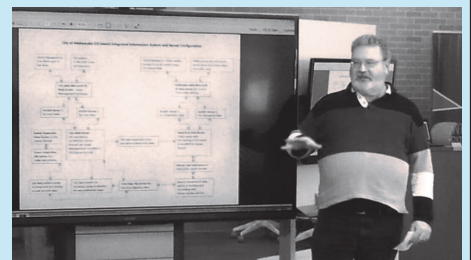
Remember to allow your child to gradually master cooking methods. Start with simple techniques like rolling dough, using a cookie cutter or spreading frosting. Give your child time to work his or her way up to completing the entire cookie making process, from pouring liquids into batter to baking them in the oven. Explain different methods for cooking and their purpose, such as baking versus broiling and how to cook different dishes.

Take advantage of the holidays and start cooking your favorite recipes with your children. Visit www.sjmed.com/recipes and click on the Healthy Living section for more great healthy recipes.

Government In Action

Jack presented a brief history describing how the City has progressed in the area of GIS data. Fifteen years ago this information was maintained in various formats such as computer files, blueprints and other paper-based media which made it difficult to organize, locate and share information. Today, the City uses an integrated information system that not only maximizes the ability to develop and use GIS data, but also allows for interfacing the GIS data to several other database software programs. City employees now have the ability to edit, use, and disseminate GIS information whether they are working at their desks or through the Internet while out in the field via a mobile device.

The presentation concluded with a brief list of goals for the future of the City's GIS enterprise system and a related discussion of the efforts to make the City's GIS data as accurate and comprehensive as possible.



Send your questions, comments, or concerns to communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov